
**Health Care & Wellness
Committee**

HB 1667

Brief Description: Regarding fairness and equity in health professions licensing fees.

Sponsors: Representatives Green, Cody, Morrell, Ormsby, Moeller and Simpson.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires that fees for regulating the health professions be established according to the three categories of credentials: registered, certified, and licensed.

Hearing Date: 2/14/07

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

The Secretary of Health and the various health profession boards and commissions regulate the 57 health professions and 45 types of health care facilities and services. The Secretary is responsible for establishing fees for all of these regulated entities. Fees must be established according to the amount necessary to defray the costs of administering the program. Fees may be waived by the Secretary when it is determined that it is not in the best interest of public health and safety.

Health professions are categorized in one of three levels of regulation. There are general characteristics associated with each category, however, in several cases there are variations from these features. Registration is the least restrictive form of regulation and it simply requires a submission of formal notification to the Secretary of the applicant's intent to practice a profession. Certification offers title protection for having met education and examination requirements, however, there is no requirement that individuals practicing a certified profession become certified in order to practice. Licensing requires that an applicant pass an examination and complete an educational program in order to practice the profession.

In the 2006 Supplemental Operating Budget, the Department of Health was instructed to evaluate alternative models for funding the regulation of the health professions. The study identified an

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option for funding health professions regulation which established fees according to the level of credentialing. Under this option, licensed health care providers would pay \$125, certified health care providers would pay \$50, and registered health care providers would pay \$30.

Summary of Bill:

When adopting fees for health profession credentials, the Secretary must establish the fees so that they are equal for all health professions within each of the three categories of credentialing: registered, certified, and licensed. Fee levels must be sufficient to cover the costs of administering all of the professions within each category.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Preliminary fiscal note available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.